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want is still felt of a book representing, with some degree of definiteness, practically the work of two generations that have elapsed since Mill's *Principles*. If there is any one thing that one regrets, it is the absence of a more detailed treatment of the subject of consumption; indeed, one is even led to expect it in the author's statement of the four main problems of his science, but, as I say, his purpose has been simply to give it its place in the whole of the theory, like any other part of the subject. The *Grundriss* is essentially the very best sort of *Lehrbuch* for the capable student.

W. CALDWELL.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Coöperative Congress of Great Britain.
Held in June, 1892, at Rochdale. Report published by the
Coöperative Union, Limited, Manchester.

In the light of the recent valuable books of Miss Potter (now Mrs. Webb) on *The Coöperative Movement*, and of Mr. Schloss on *Methods of Industrial Remuneration*, which seem to be sound in reference to coöperation, although not altogether appreciative of profit-sharing, the public are prepared to examine with care the facts of coöperation brought out at the last congress.

Much interest was there shown in the resolution adopted that coöperative societies should pay their employees trades-union rates of wages, and should combine to demand from Parliament the application of the same laws regarding sanitation (and ultimately hours of labor) to tenement-made goods as to factories, so as to break up the sweating system.

Great interest attached, also, to the consideration of some means of coöperation with each other and in dealings with the coöperative stores on the part, first, of the so-called "productive" (*i. e.*, manufacturing) societies, owned by thousands of individual stockholders of the wage-earning class (albeit not commonly workers in the factories thus owned); and, secondly, as to coöperation with larger and more successful "productive" societies owned by the wholesale societies or by the stores which compose them.

A committee was ordered to report a plan of coöperation at the next congress.

Thirty-one new "productive" societies were registered in 1891, of which ten were boots and shoes, five tailoring, three cabinet-making, two building and eleven others in various industries. Nearly every

society of the twenty-three reporting, after providing for 5 per cent. interest to capital, planned to give the workmen from 40 to 65 per cent. of the balance of net profit, and to shareholders in most cases $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent. Of the remaining profit, part (usually 30 per cent. of the net profits) was to go to customers as dividend on trade, and the remainder (from 5 to 15 per cent.) was to be spent for social, provident and educational purposes.

The central board of the congress recognized 157 "productive" societies, aside from the productive departments of the wholesale stores, as coöperative in 1891. Of these, thirty-six, with a capital of £16,418 and sales of £53,023, at a profit of £1,975, equal to 12 per cent. on the capital, were farming and dairying; and ten, with a capital of £555,812, sales of £1,589,888 and profits of £92,344, equivalent to 16.6 per cent. on the capital, were corn (flour) mills, which, according to Miss Potter, are run, like the stores and the productive departments of the wholesale societies, in the interests of the consumer rather than of the producer.

The remaining 111 productive societies are thus classified :

	No.	Capital £	Sales £	Profit £	Percentage of profit to capital
Cotton, Linen, Silk and Wool.	26	346,064	605,752	16,455	4.8
Leather Workers.....	26	149,183	467,759	18,978	12.7
Metal Workers.....	15	14,012	43,202	2,647	18.9
Wood Workers.....	9	30,413	38,955	1,629	5.3
Building, etc.....	9	15,097	43,064	1,075	7.1
Printing and Bookbinding	5	46,832	91,060	8,704	18.6
Various.....	21	139,771	326,655	26,348	18.8
Total.....	111	741,372	1,616,447	75,836	10.2

Although in none of these, according to Mr. Schloss and Miss Potter, do the workers own a majority of the stock, and in less than a score are the workers eligible for membership on the board of directors, or the majority of workers even stockholders, yet, in many, profits are shared with the workers and the stock is mostly held by wage earners.

There should also be mentioned thirty-eight coöperative farming societies, with a capital of £55,558 and 3,315 acres, and a rapidly growing insurance company with fire policies of £5,731,586.

But the most interesting productive societies are those of the English and of the Scotch Wholesale Societies, which are entirely owned and managed by the stores which own the wholesale societies.

The figures for 1891 are as follows :

THE ENGLISH WHOLESALE PRODUCTIVE DEPARTMENT SALES.

	1890 £	1891 £
Boots and Shoes.....	241,634	278,329
Soap	33,145	37,425
Biscuits, Sweets, Jams, etc.....	47,227	64,567
Woolen Cloth.....	13,069	17,018
Woolen Clothing (Factory).....	6,202	12,929
Corn Milling.....	—	178,683
Total.....	341,277	588,950

THE SCOTTISH WHOLESALE.

	1890 £	1891 £
Boots and Shoes.....	47,408	71,127
Shirts.....	2,858	1,457
Tailoring	13,955	17,919
Cabinet.....	15,983	18,477
Preserves and Confectionery.....	11,200	32,533
Tobacco.....	—	15,510
Printing.....	7,242	9,018
Total.....	98,646	166,041
Total of both English and Scottish.....	439,923	754,991

THE BANKING DEPARTMENT OF THE WHOLESALE.

	Receipts £	Profits £
1890.....	12,440,739	3,845
1891.....	14,193,487	5,193

The totals for all the coöperative stores and “productive” societies are most interesting.

	No. Societies	Members	Capital £	Trade £	Profits £
1889.....	1,183	604,063	7,573,383	23,248,314	1,579,873
1890.....	1,554	1,117,055	12,261,952	43,200,319	4,170,038
1891.....	1,624	1,191,369	13,258,482	48,571,786	4,774,030

The profit of the 1,459 stores in 1891 was £4,342,373, equal to 32.9 per cent. on their capital (share, £11,520,055; loan, £1,207,204; reserve, £478,861) of £13,206,120.

After paying on the average about 5 per cent. on this capital, there was left an amount of profit equal to 11.6 per cent. on the trade of £31,514,634. The usual dividend declared on trade was 10 per cent. Of the balance of profit, £32,651 was given to educational purposes, or about equal to the combined income from endowment of Amherst and Williams colleges, and £10,156 was applied for charitable purposes.

While it may be said that most of the strictly independent “productive” coöperative societies either fail or lapse into joint stock companies

with a widely scattered body of wage earners as stockholders, there is undoubted success in the manufacturing enterprises managed by the stores, *i. e.*, by the consumers, who now are fully 15 per cent. of the population of Great Britain, and that not the most learned or wealthiest nor the very poorest. This may prove an antidote to socialism, or may give encouragement to those who believe that ultimately the whole body of consumers of a nation will be able to do what a rapidly growing portion of the wage earners are now accomplishing.

In the report full details are given of seventy-three of the more or less independent "productive" societies. Many of these, as has been said, are owned and controlled in large part by the stores, *i. e.*, by the consumers. Of these seventy-three societies, there were twenty-nine that shared profits with the workers as follows:

7	gave over 1 per cent. and under 3 per cent. on wages.
5	more gave under 5 per cent.
7	" " " 6.4 "
5	" " " 8 "
1	" " " 8 "
1	" " " 9 "
1	" " " 10 "
1	" " " 10.8 "
1	" " " 16.7 "

In all the manufacturing industries of the Scottish Wholesale, in which, however, only 14.1 per cent. as much capital (£42,362) is embarked as in the English Wholesale (£300,848), labor received a dividend of 3.8 per cent. in 1891.

During the debate on the sweating system, Mr. Maxwell, of the Scottish Wholesale, gave the following interesting evidence, only one proof among many of the possibilities of productive coöperation when managed by the general body of consumers. "A few years ago they [the Scottish Wholesale Society] found they had too much capital in their society and they wished to enter into production. The question arose as to which industry they should enter into. Some were for undertaking industries sure to show a profit; others were inclined to think that, if coöperation could do all that is claimed for it, the best thing to do would be to begin at the bottom, and try those industries it was said coöperation would never reach. So they went through the whole list of industries and finally adopted one that stood among the

very lowest of them—that of shirt making. They undertook it as a forlorn hope, but what has been the result? To-day they could make shirts of all descriptions, and sell them against the sweaters in every part of England and Scotland. Not a shirt was made out of their manufactory. They were made in comfortable work rooms, under sanitary conditions, the wages were 20 per cent. higher than those paid by the ordinary manufacturer, and in addition the work people got a share of the profits. They could sell their shirts to the Newcastle branch of the English Wholesale Society, who sent them to the retail societies, who sold them to the wearers, and they all shared in the profit. Don't tell the members of the Scottish Board that sweating is necessary."

EDWARD W. BEMIS.

Report of the Twenty-fifth Annual Trades Union Congress of Great Britain, held at Glasgow September 5–10, 1892, pp. 80. Manchester Coöperative Printing Society, Limited.

Report of Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Philadelphia, December 12–17, 1892. Concord Coöperative Printing Co., Limited, New York.

At the Twenty-fifth Annual Trades Union Congress of Great Britain 495 delegates were present, representing 418 trades and 1,219,934 different members. The largest number of trades ever before represented was probably two years ago, at Liverpool, when there were 311, although, owing, it is said, to a decline in the numbers of some of the newer unions of unskilled labor, because of trade depression, the number of members represented in 1892 was about 80,000 less than in 1891. The growth has been great, in numbers and influence, since 139 delegates, representing 530,000 members, met in Glasgow ten years ago.

Nothing is more significant in recent economic history, in the opinion of the writer, than the drift toward a demand for greatly increased state activity. Such demand has now conquered the English trades unions, which have, until lately, been considered the strictest adherents to individual effort and self-help. There appears no loss of interest in trades unions, but a determination to use them for securing industrial changes at the ballot-box.

The congress voted, 188 to 47, for seizure by the government of all